

## EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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APPLICANT : KAO CORP;

INVENTOR : SAKAI YOSHIHIRO;

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TITLE : STRETCHABLE ELASTIC NONWOVEN FABRIC

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a stretchable elastic nonwoven fabric having excellent stretchability and cloth-like feeling of comfortable touch from a carded web containing a shrinkable composite fiber comprising crystalline polypropylene and a thermoplastic elastomer by heat-treating the carded web.

SOLUTION: This stretchable elastic nonwoven fabric is obtained by heat-treating a carded web that contains 30wt.% of a parallel type, split type or core-sheathed type of stretchable composite fibers formed of 5-70wt.% of a crystalline polypropylene, and 95-30wt.% of a thermoplastic elastomer, such as an ethylene-alpha olefin copolymer produced using a metallocene catalyst, as a second component, so that the composite fibers are fusion-bonded at confounding points of the fibers to have 40-100% of a rate of recovery from stretch when the fibers are stretched by 20%.

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